

# 2013 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2013 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2012 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. This handout is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improving their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or by obtaining copies of the 2013 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2013 Fishing and Boating Guide.

To locate fishing access sites in Kentucky, visit our website and click on "Fishing & Boating", then "Where to Fish", and finally "Find a Place to Fish". You will be able to search for your favorite water bodies and get directions to all major boat launches and access sites.

Opening day of the 2013 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting good store, get online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov), or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2013 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast was partially financed through funds provided by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.



## **New and Expanding Fisheries in 2013**

- Rainbow trout are being stocked in Cedar Creek Lake (Lincoln County) to provide a seasonal fishery. Stockings will take place in February and September.
- Rainbow trout will also be stocked in Lake Malone tailwater (Muhlenburg County), Taylorsville Lake tailwater (Spencer County), Looney Creek (Harlan County) and Right Fork Beaver Creek (Floyd County). See the Trout Waters section of the 2013 Fishing and Boating Guide for specific stocking months.
- Jacobson Park Lake in Lexington and James D. Beville Park Lake in Leitchfield are the latest additions to the FINS program. Please see our web page ([fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)) for more information about the FINS program and associated stockings.
- White crappie stockings continue in Taylorsville, Carr Creek, Paintsville and Kentucky lakes to bolster fish populations in those lakes.

## **Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet**

Make sure you check out the new Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet located at the end of this publication. For those looking for a quick answer to where the best fishing can be found for each species, the Cheat Sheet is your guide. The Cheat Sheet lets you know which lakes are forecasted to provide good to excellent fishing for each of your favorite fish species. Just look up the species you are interested in and then see which lakes have a check mark next to them. These are the lakes which will provide the best chance for a memorable fishing trip for that species. The Cheat Sheet is located on two pages, so if you don't see the species you are interested in on the first page; make sure to check the following page.

## **New Up-and-Comers**

Several lakes and rivers have shown improvements in their fisheries in the last year. You might try and get in on the action at the following water bodies:

- Largemouth bass at Mill Creek Lake (Powell and Wolfe counties).
- Bluegill at Lake Wilgreen (Madison County) and Mill Creek Lake (Powell and Wolfe counties).
- Redear sunfish at Briggs Lake (Logan County) and Lake Willgreen (Madison County).
- Crappie at Cedar Creek Lake (Lincoln County), Yatesville Lake (Lawrence County) and the Kentucky River (multiple counties).
- Blue catfish at Lake Wilgreen (Madison County).

## **Late Winter/Early Spring Fishing Frenzy**

As warm winds begin to flow over Kentucky, put your new fishing license to good use by trying a few early spring fishing hot spots. In March, fish activity begins in the smaller bodies of water such as farm ponds and smaller public lakes as water temperatures reach the 50's. These smaller, shallower bodies of water warm quicker than reservoirs in spring. Late winter and early spring may be the best time of the year to catch big fish.

Trophy largemouth bass, especially females, are at their heaviest weight of the entire year during late winter and early spring. Female bass feed heavily during this time to provide fuel for the upcoming spawn. Farm ponds and public lakes are prime spots for early spring largemouth bass fishing before the larger bodies of water warm enough for bass to feed.

A few of the best lakes for catching trophy bass in spring are Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake and Lake Malone in western Kentucky along with Cedar Creek, Kincaid and Guist Creek lakes in central Kentucky. Greenbo Lake in northeast Kentucky and Wood Creek Lake in southeast Kentucky both produced multiple state record largemouth bass in the past. Woods Creek Lake is the home of the current 13-pound, 10.4 ounce state record. Barren River Lake in west-central Kentucky, Lake Beshear and Lake Mauzy in west Kentucky along with Lake Herrington and Green River lakes in central Kentucky also offer excellent early spring bass fishing. Dewey Lake and Fishtrap lakes give east Kentucky anglers a great shot for an early spring trophy largemouth bass.

If you are after smallmouth bass, head to Green River, Kentucky, Cumberland, Laurel River, Dale Hollow and Fishtrap lakes for a good chance at catching the smallmouth bass of a lifetime in late winter and early spring. Streams also provide excellent fishing for smallmouth bass in early spring throughout central and eastern Kentucky. Adult fish migrate from their winter habitat in deep, slow moving holes in the lower sections of streams to spawning areas in smaller tributary streams. Elkhorn Creek, South Fork, Licking River and several upper Kentucky, Green and Barren River tributaries offer the best spring fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass.

Slab crappie are ready to be caught, beginning in late winter, at many reservoirs in central and western Kentucky. Catches of crappie over 12 inches are not uncommon at Barkley and Kentucky lakes during this time. Black crappie move into shallow water well before the spawning season in early March, so start early for these fish. Other good bets for crappie include Herrington, Cumberland, Dewey, Rough, Nolin, and Buckhorn lakes as well as the Kentucky River.

Excellent white bass fishing can be found during the early spring in the upper sections of reservoirs such as Barkley, Cave Run, Nolin River, Herrington and Taylorsville lakes. The Kentucky, Green and Ohio rivers offer excellent spring white bass fishing.

During late winter, sauger and walleye fishing peaks in tailwaters below dams on the Ohio, lower Kentucky, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. Lake Cumberland, Laurel River and Carr Creek lakes possess excellent walleye fisheries.

If you are interested in muskellunge, they move in spring to shallow shoreline structure and headwater areas in search of warmer water at Cave Run, Green, and Buckhorn lakes. Remember, a 36-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit is in effect for muskellunge at these three reservoirs.

Do not forget to take advantage of trout waters such as seasonal catch-and-release trout streams, lakes stocked with trout in winter months, Fishing in Neighborhood (FINs) lakes stocked with trout and the Cumberland River tailwater below Lake Cumberland in late winter and early spring. Trout bite willingly in cold water.

Try these late winter and early spring hot spots. Not only will they cure your cabin fever, but you might catch the fish of your lifetime.

# 2013 FISHING FORECAST

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The fishing forecast is based on 2012 fish population surveys, planned fish stockings, and projections for 2013.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER</b>	45,600 acres	(Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties)
Blue catfish	Good	Good numbers of 10-20 pounders with the occasional 50 plus pounder caught. Best fishing is during late spring and summer along deep river channels. Look for good flow in the lake for best fishing conditions. Blue catfish can be caught year-round in the tailwater. Best bait is cut shad or skipjack herring.
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers of fish up to 9 inches; the best fishing comes in May on sand or gravel spawning beds. Crickets and worms under corks during the spawn is a primary option. Fish move deeper in the summer and fall where they can be caught on drop shot rigs with live bait such as redworms.
Channel catfish	Good	Best fishing is during May along rocky banks and during summer along the main river channel and adjacent flats. Try stink bait in shallow water in the spring. Channel catfish can also be caught year-round in the tailwater.
Crappie	Excellent	Two years of strong year classes and improved growth have resulted in a rebound in the crappie population. White crappie tend to spend much of the year in deeper water, but many fishermen are changing tactics, casting light jigs and roadrunners in the spring and fall to take advantage of black crappie in the population.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Creel reports suggest continued success by bass fishermen on Barkley. Traditional methods provide consistent results. Carolina rigs, jigs, crank baits and spinner baits are most effective. Largemouth tend to move shallow in the spring and associate with deeper ledges during the summer months.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of 8-10 inch fish with trophies up to 13 inches. Prime fishing occurs in late April and throughout May as fish are spawning. Fish can be found in areas with gravel substrate and vegetation. Redear generally spawn deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Poor	Population consists of some harvestable-size (>14 inch) fish. Many fish are caught trolling deep diving crank baits near secondary channel breaks during the early summer. Sauger can also be caught while fishing for catfish along the main river channel.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass make up a small portion of the total bass population but are common in certain habitats. The best opportunity is around rocky shorelines, main lake points, and the canal during late winter and early spring with jerk baits. Live shiners and shad fished in the same areas work very well.
Striped bass	Fair	Low flows have caused decreased catches in the tailwaters of Barkley Dam. Striped bass will school up during periods of discharge downstream from the generator section of the dam. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface over flats during summer and fall in the reservoir. Use topwater and blade-baits. The population is limited in the lake. Most are caught fishing ledges for white bass. A good site is around the Canton Bridge (US Highway 68/80) at night.
White bass	Fair	Fishing success has improved the last few years. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface during summer and fall. Night fishing can be excellent during summer in areas where the current is restricted. Similar to striped bass, good fishing occurs in the tailwaters. A good site is around the Canton Bridge (US Highway 68/80) at night.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>BARREN RIVER (from Barren River Lake dam to Green River confluence)</b>		
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Barren River Lake tailwater area is best, especially during or following periods of heavy lake discharges. Good fishing also below instream dams at Bowling Green and Greencastle.
Muskellunge	Good	Target mouths of feeder creeks and around wood structure or other current breaks from dam to Green River confluence. Stocked annually.
Smallmouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 12-inch fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Fishing best from dam to Bowling Green. Target areas above and below riffle/shoal areas and rocky banks in pool areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Found throughout Barren River. Fish slower moving pools with rocky banks and logs. Fish spinner baits and crankbaits in the spring and early summer. Buzzbaits during summer.
Walleye/Sauger	Fair/Good	Fishing best below instream dams (Barren River Lake, Greencastle and Bowling Green) especially from December–March. Good sized walleye (15-25 inch) available. Sauger have been stocked since 2010.
<b>BARREN RIVER LAKE</b> 10,000 acres    (Allen and Barren counties)		
Summertime (mid June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 16-18 feet.		
Bluegill (sunfish)	Good	Good numbers of 6–8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back of coves during the spring and fall. Fish deeper in the summer near cove mouths and along bluff walls near laydowns or standing timber.
Catfish	Excellent	Good populations of channel and flathead catfish present with good numbers of larger individuals. Fishing best near creek channels and at night. Blue catfish have been stocked annually since 2010, with some of these already over 20 inches. Fish for blues with live or cut bait in open water areas with jugs or rod and reel.
Crappie	Good	Crappie mix remains about 50-50 (black crappie to white crappie). Good numbers of both species are available due to good year classes/spawns of both in 2010 and 2011 and a good spawn of black crappie in 2008. Good numbers of larger crappie (10-11 inch; black and white) will be available throughout the year. Target shallower water to find black crappie in spring and early summer. Summer and winter fishing is best around deeper structure and fish attractor/brush sites.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Overall numbers are good with large fish (20-inch plus) available. Spring fishing best in headwater areas with spinners, crank baits, and curly tailed jigs. Target main lake around islands in mid-lower lake with crankbaits and spoons early in the morning and at dusk in the summer and fall as schools appear throughout the lake. Always be on the lookout for hybrids busting baitfish on surface for fast paced action. 200,000 stocked annually since 2000.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers overall and good numbers of 15-inch plus and 20-inch plus fish.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density population overall; however, quality/trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Target lower half of the lake near the dam, fishing rock outcroppings and rocky transition areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Lower density population overall; however, quality fish (15-inch plus) available. Bridge pylons and bluff walls with rock slides are good places to target spots.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>BARREN RIVER LAKE (continued)</b>		
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain low. Best opportunity is during spawning run in late March to mid April with in-line spinners, small jigs and small crankbaits in Barren River, Peter, Skaggs and Beaver creeks above the lake.
Yellow bass	Excellent	Abundant and willing to bite. Most fish are 7-9 inches in length. Bite readily on small jigs, spinners and minnows. Bridge pylons excellent areas to target for summer time bite.
<b>BEAVER LAKE</b> 158 acres (Anderson County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish, some $\geq 8.0$ inch fish possible.
Channel catfish	Good	Around 3,900 catchable size fish stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common. Fall fishing good in shallows in coves.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Small population; good numbers of fish between 8-10 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of bass up to 15 inches; improved numbers of fish $\geq 15$ inches.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Many 7-9 inch fish available around vegetation; good numbers of 10-11 inch fish possible.
<b>BERT COMBS LAKE</b> 36 acres (Clay County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fairly moderate numbers of bluegills but size is good (6-8 inches). Bank anglers can fish from shoreline or fishing pier.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of mostly moderate-sized bass, with a few large bass available.
Rainbow trout	Good	Stocked annually.
<b>BESHEAR LAKE</b> 760 acres (Caldwell and Christian counties)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Blue catfish have been stocked every other year since 2005. Their population remains fair with good growth. Some already measure over 25 inches and weigh over 5 pounds.
Bluegill	Fair	Numerous small fish with occasional 8 inch fish caught.
Channel catfish	Excellent	High numbers of 10-15 inch channel catfish in the population. Channel catfish are stocked every other year at 10-12 inches. This is an underutilized fishery. Most anglers fishing for catfish use jug lines or noodles.
Crappie	Fair	Numerous fish in the 6-8 inch range, with an occasional 10 incher. Best fishing occurs during spring in areas of aquatic vegetation and around woody structure.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Population is dominated by bass 12-18 inches. The best fishing occurs during spring when fish move to shallow water along the water willow and lily pads. Try fishing the edges of these weeds with a pearl colored fluke using a short jerk retrieve or with a white spinner bait. Try top water baits during the late afternoon.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>BEULAH LAKE</b> 87 acres (Jackson County)		
Bluegill	Good	Moderate numbers of bluegill available with a few exceeding 8 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good density of 11-13 inch fish with improving numbers of fish >15 inches.
Rainbow trout	Good	Stocked annually.
<b>BOLTZ LAKE</b> 92 acres (Grant County)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; 25-inch plus fish possible.
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Around 1,700 catchable size fish stocked each year.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant, majority of fish between 6-8 inches; larger fish possible due to recent removal of smaller crappie in spring of 2012.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Decent numbers bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); some potential for bass ≥20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Low numbers of 6-8 inch fish available around vegetation.
<b>BRIGGS LAKE</b> 18 acres (Logan County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Crappie	Fair	Large fish present; fish laydown trees, stakebeds and brushpiles in late winter and early spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Better than average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Larger fish very shallow in early spring; then move to thermocline depth.
<b>BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER</b> 1,250 acres (Leslie and Perry counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Good size distribution and very good numbers. Upper lake areas and heads of coves hold best numbers during summer pool. Shallow mudflats in main lake areas can hold large congregations of fish on spawning beds.
Catfish	Good	Stable population of both channel and flathead catfish. Tailwater provides additional good fishery. Some flathead catfish available up to 40-50 pounds.
Crappie	Fair	2013 looks to have a better number of 9-12 inch fish compared to 2012. July and August can provide some very good fishing over shallow mud flats adjacent to the main lake channel. Try trolling bait tipped jigs or small crankbaits over the flats. Also, early October during drawdown to winter pool can be very good in same locations.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth rates of young bass, fair numbers of 15-inch plus fish and good numbers for fish greater than 20 inches. Spring fishing success can be very good if high water events do not occur.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)</b>		
Muskellunge	Good	With implementation of 36-inch minimum length in 2010, down from the previous 40-inch minimum length, fish numbers over 40 inches have decreased. However, fish numbers over 36 inches are starting to increase and fish numbers overall are good. Fishing can be difficult for periods following flood events. From January-March, fish will congregate in the lower lake and near dam. Increases in flow from the dam will draw fish to spillway area.
White bass	Poor	There are some fish available from 10–15 inches, but anglers will have to spend some time locating them as numbers are low.
<b>BULLOCK PEN LAKE</b> 134 acres (Grant County)		
Blue catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year for research purposes; 25-inch plus fish possible.
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are 6 inches or less, but are abundant.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; potential for larger fish.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant population of small fish.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); excellent potential for quality size fish and bass over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Very low numbers.
White bass	Poor/Fair	Small population of large fish in the 14-17 inch range.
<b>CANNON CREEK LAKE</b> 243 acres (Bell County)		
Largemouth bass	Fair	Modest overall numbers but decent size range of fish available to anglers, including a few over 20 inches.
Spotted bass	Fair	Fair numbers but most are less than 12 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density population.
Rainbow trout	Good	Stocked annually in February and October.
<b>CARPENTER LAKE</b> 68 acres (Daviess County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good number of 6 to 7 inch bluegill, very few over 8 inches in the population.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Excellent growth rates produce good numbers of 15-20 inch and some larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Most fish are 12-13 inches, but the number of 15-inch and larger fish is increasing.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low but increasing numbers. Most 6-7 inches with a few 9-11 inch redear present.



Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>CARR CREEK LAKE</b> 710 acres (Knott County)		
Hydrilla was documented in Carr Creek Lake for the first time in 2008. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species within the lake and between lakes by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of small bluegill present. Shallow water areas in creek arms provide good fishing in spring and early summer.
Crappie	Fair	Improving fishery with better numbers of keeper fish. Larger black crappie will usually range from 9-11 inches and white crappie from 10 to 16 inches. Areas with heavy concentration of downed trees and submerged brushpiles will congregate large numbers of fish during most of the year.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of large fish over 20 inches. Fish numbers 15-20 inches are down slightly. From March-early April, anglers have very good fishing success for big fish. Usually poor recruitment of small fish and stocking of fingerlings occurs each year.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low numbers but fish sampled up to 20 inches.
Spotted bass	Good	Best numbers are concentrated in lower and mid lake; a few large fish up to 18 inches with majority from 7-12 inches.
Walleye	Good	Very high numbers of fish from 15-26 inches; a few fish up to 28 inches; March through May are good months to try during day or night. Standing timber will hold suspended fish in summer.

<b>CAVE RUN LAKE</b> 8,270 acres (Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties)		
The beds of aquatic vegetation, composed of Eurasian milfoil and curly pondweed are now back and should remain near the same densities experienced during 2012. Look for fishing to be good around the vegetated areas if we don't experience extremely high water conditions during the spring of 2013. Historically, shallow flats are covered with weed growth and fishing has been good in these areas for largemouth bass and muskellunge.		
Bluegill	Good	Widespread within the lake, most 7-inches long or less, but it is not unusual to catch 7-8 inch long bluegill. Look for bluegill early in the year in the back of coves or other shallow water areas that warm up first or where they may spawn. Later in the year, bluegill can be found around stumps or sunken woody structure within many areas of the lake. Fishing main lake structure during the summer can yield good results.
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish up to two feet long with a few larger fish. Many are found along shallow rocky shoreline areas in early May-June where they seek cover in rock piles and submerged logs to spawn. Later they tend to be found in deeper water. Although not as plentiful, some trophy sized flathead catfish are found in the lake.
Crappie	Good	During 2012 anglers continued to have very good success catching crappie. As the aquatic vegetation continues it's come back, finding crappie may be a little more difficult than it has been in the past couple of years. The lake continues to hold nice numbers of 2 to 3 year old fish and they should continue to push through the population maintaining the good numbers of larger fish for a few more years. Fair numbers of 10 to 12 inch fish can be found during spring months, however success generally declines through the summer months. During spring months look for black crappie in the shallows near shore and later in association with aquatic vegetation or around deep structure.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>CAVE RUN LAKE (continued)</b>		
Largemouth bass	Good	The North Fork and Licking River portions of the lake (upper reaches) generally hold the larger fish. In these areas try fishing the rocky banks warmed by the morning sun in April and May. For the rest of the lake fish the edges and pockets of the milfoil beds and fallen trees; in these areas largemouth bass are more common within embayments (especially around woody structure) than along the main lake shoreline. Look for the catch of $\geq 15$ -inch largemouth bass to remain the same or increase slightly during 2013. <b>Note: 13-16 inch protective slot limit.</b>
Muskellunge	Excellent	Excellent angling can still be expected in this fishery. Trophy fish can be found primarily in the spawning month of April in the backs of the large coves or in the fall in association with gentle sloping gravelly banks or near channel drop offs. General fall fishing for muskellunge can also be hot from the first part of September until the end of October in the shallow flats area and in the upper reaches of the lake. <b>Note: 36 inch minimum size, one fish creel limit.</b>
Smallmouth bass	Fair	While still uncommon, smallmouth have been picking up in recent years. They are found primarily in the lower lake (mouths of Licking River and Beaver Creek to the Dam). Look for them off rocky points or shoreline areas along the main lake. One excellent bank on the lake is directly across from the Twin Knobs beach area. Other areas to try include Scotts Creek, rocky areas around the confluence of the Licking River and the rocky bank from Scotts Creek Boat Ramp to the dam. <b>Note: 18-inch minimum size limit.</b>
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous along the middle and lower main lake shorelines; become less common in the upper reaches of the lake. Most less than 13-inches long.
White bass	Excellent	Should provide some good action. Look for them up lake early in the spring and in the jumps here and there at other times. Good numbers 12-14 inches long; some larger. <b>Note: no more than 5 white bass in the daily creel limit may be greater than 15-inches long.</b>
<b>CEDAR CREEK LAKE</b> 784 acres    (Lincoln County)		
Bluegill	Good	Excellent numbers of bluegill in lake, although most run a little small (5-7 inches). Bank anglers can choose from several designated fishing access areas.
Channel catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 12-17 inch fish with a few over 20 inches.
Crappie	Good	The crappie population is getting better and there are currently good numbers of mostly moderate-sized (9-10 inch) crappie with a few large fish.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Impressive numbers of large fish (18-22 inches) give anglers a good chance for a trophy fish. <b>Note: a 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish creel limit, trophy regulation is in effect on this lake.</b>
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked in late fall and early spring to provide a cool weather fishery.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate density of 5-8 inch redear with a few larger fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>CLEAR CREEK LAKE</b>	40 acres	(Bath County)
Eurasian water milfoil has covered a good portion of the lake; therefore fishing may be difficult especially in the fall. Grass carp were stocked in 2007- 2009; please release any that are caught. Due to federal ownership of this lake, the use of aquatic herbicides is prohibited at this time.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-7 inch bluegill are present with occasional 8 inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Lake receives heavy pressure reducing the overall numbers of bass, but a few in the 20-25 inch range have been sampled.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-8 inch fish. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
<b>CORINTH LAKE</b>	96 acres	(Grant County)
Bluegill	Fair	Abundant; majority of fish 6 inches or less. Bluegill have been impacted by shad introduction.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	Few fish; most between 8 to 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); excellent potential for bass between 15-20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Fair numbers of fish greater than 7 inches; numbers of quality-size fish continue to decrease due to competition with shad population.
<b>CUMBERLAND LAKE</b>	50,250 acres	(Russell, Wayne, Clinton, and Pulaski counties)
The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are now defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-7 inch bluegill in lake, although the overall population seems to be down slightly. Try crickets in coves and cuts for good early summer action.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Overlooked fishery provides excellent numbers of 16-20 inch fish with an occasional fish over 5 lbs.
Crappie	Good	Anglers can expect continued good crappie fishing as population remains good with some quality crappie (12-inch plus) available. Try jigs or minnows in headwaters of the lake (near mouth of Laurel and Rockcastle Rivers) in early spring for some excellent fishing. Fall fishing should also be good in major tributaries in the upper half of lake. Try jigs or minnows around brush near heads of creeks for best results.
Largemouth bass	Good	Stable density of 14-17 inch fish; some larger fish are available. Creek arms in upper lake are slightly better for largemouth than lower lake arms.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 14-18 inch fish present with a moderate density of 18-inch plus fish. Try winter fishing with jigs.
Spotted bass	Good	Good population of 11-14 inch fish with occasional fish over 15 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>CUMBERLAND LAKE (continued)</b>		
Striped bass	Good	The striped bass population is improving and anglers can expect to catch slightly larger fish in 2013. The 2009 year class (mostly 22-26 inch fish) should provide the bulk of the striped bass fishery but some larger fish are in the population. <b>Note: 22-inch size limit remains in effect, and anglers should have no trouble catching their limit.</b>
Walleye	Fair/good	Anglers can expect a modest boost in walleye numbers this year, as the population rebounds from lows in 2011 and 2012. Expect most fish to average 17-21 inches, with a few over 4 pounds. Stocking numbers are scheduled to be increased in 2013 in anticipation of full lake levels by 2014. Best fishing in spring is at night on surface baits. Night crawler rigs and deep diving crank baits trolled 20-35 feet deep along main lake shoreline work well during summer and fall.
White bass	Fair	A fairly low density population of mostly 13-14 inch fish. Upper half of lake is best for numbers. For best success, try headwater areas in early spring.
<b>CUMBERLAND LAKE TAILWATER (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties)</b>		
Brook trout	Fair	Annual stockings have established brook trout in the tailwater. Most fish range from 10-13 inches.
Brown trout	Fair	Numbers and size of brown trout remain significantly decreased due to changes in the tailwater associated with the dam repair. Anglers should expect diminished fishing success until the dam is repaired and flows return to normal.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Rainbow trout abundance is significantly lower than peak years, but adequate numbers of stocker fish should be available to anglers. Larger fish (>15 inches) remain scarce and likely won't rebound significantly until the dam is fixed and normal flows resume.
Striped bass	Fair	Best below Burkesville using live bait or trolling shad colored crankbaits or swim baits. Fish over 20 lbs available. The tailwater provides the best location in state to catch a trophy striper.
Walleye/Sauger	Good	Fish dam area from late February–mid March. From mid-summer to fall, fish below Burkesville trolling shad colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs. Due to warmer tailwater temperatures, sauger and walleye can be found throughout the tailwater most of the year.
White bass	Fair	Best in lower sections near creek mouths. If lower section warms due to lower flows from dam repair, fish can be found above Burkesville area. Try casting spinners and jigs near the dam in early spring.
<b>DALE HOLLOW LAKE 4,300 acres in Kentucky (Clinton and Cumberland counties)</b>		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution with moderate numbers over 15 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Continues to produce impressive numbers of fish over 3 lbs. Standard fare of jigs and soft plastics work well as do float-n-fly techniques in cold water months.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of quality sized fish (12-14 inches).

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>DEWEY LAKE</b> 1,100 acres (Floyd County)		
Zebra mussels and hydrilla are present at Dewey Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of these damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Blue catfish	Fair	Blues have been stocked annually since 2009 to start this fishery. A good range of sizes exists. Larger fish up to 30 inches.
Bluegill	Good	Stable population with good growth. Large fish are around 7 inches long.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good numbers found in the lower lake during winter months. The upper lake is best in the summer months. Lots of good bank fishing access.
Crappie	Excellent	Crappie have showed good growth in recent years. Another year with good catches of 9-12 inch crappie is expected in 2013. Black and white crappie are present with larger white crappie to 15 inches and black crappie to 10 inches.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution; a few large fish from 20-40 pounds caught each year; popular with ticklers/noodlers in June; try fishing shallow in September and October.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Bass continue to show good size distribution. The 2009 and 2010 year classes are strong. There were high numbers of 13 and 14 inch fish in 2012. Many of these fish will become legal size in 2013.
Redear sunfish	Good	Thick heavy growths of hydrilla during 2006-2008 have built up an excellent population of fish. Fish are present through 12 inches. Try fishing bait near the bottom around weedy areas or brush. If catching bluegill, then go deeper or further off shoreline to get into redear sunfish.
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain stable; good spawns in 2008, 2010, and 2012. John's Creek will congregate fish in March for spawning (look for Redbud trees in bloom).
<b>ELKHORN CREEK</b> – main stem and North Fork (Franklin and Scott counties)		
Channel catfish	Good	Large fish possible in bigger pools. Good numbers of “keeper” fish, especially in the lower section of the main stem.
Largemouth bass	Good	Quality fishing found in slow moving pools in the North Fork. <b>Note: 12-16 inch slot limit applies on main stem.</b>
Rock Bass	Good	Many fish between 7-9 inches in main stem and in the lower North Fork section.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of smallmouth bass, especially on the main stem within the slot. Also good numbers of fish greater than 16 inches. Good spawn should result in big fish for future years. <b>Note: fish from 12-16 inches (slot limit) are protected in the main stem Elkhorn Creek.</b>

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>ELMER DAVIS LAKE</b>	149 acres	(Owen County)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches; good numbers found around beaver lodges. Bluegill population is being effected by presence of gizzard shad in the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; fish over 15 inches possible.
Crappie	Fair	Most around 9-11 inches.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Plenty of bass under the 12-15 inch slot limit with good numbers in the protected slot. Bass numbers greater than 15 inches have increased slightly. Weed beds are back. Trophy-size possible.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Fish greater than 8 inches possible near weed beds or on spawning beds in upper embayments. "Shellcrackers" greater than 10 inches present.
Warmouth	Fair	Nice sized fish present, usually around weed beds. Locally known as "redeye" or "rockbass".

<b>FAGAN BRANCH LAKE</b>	140 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) temperature and oxygen levels for trout are best in the 20-30 foot range. This zone decreases as the summer progresses. Lake is extremely clear year round.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 7-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 11-14 inch fish. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Best fishing early and late and at night under floating lights using minnows. Fair numbers of fish, but not many larger fish (10-inch plus).
Largemouth bass	Fair	Stable population but slower growing. Fair numbers of 12-inch plus fish available.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Best fishing will be at night under floating lights from May–October due to clear water. Fish will be in 20-30 foot range during the summer. Fish available throughout the lake during the winter. Stocked semi-annually (November and February) since 2010.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Above average numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) present. Fish edges of deep weed beds (15-20 feet) during summer.
Smallmouth bass	Poor/Fair	12-inch plus fish available with occasional larger fish (18 inch plus). Concentrate on dam areas.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>FISHPOND LAKE</b>	32 acres	(Letcher County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers and size distribution up to 10 inches; largest individuals will be deeper than young fish; try night fishing for large fish under overhanging shoreline brush and trees; warmouth are another panfish that are available at Fishpond and reach large sizes.
Channel catfish	Fair	Lake receives annual stocking; fish up to 21 inches present; night fishing may produce best results.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Very good size distribution of fish up to 24 inches and 10 pounds; water is very clear and fish are often very difficult to catch during daylight hours. When rainbow trout are stocked, they are heavily targeted by bass.
Rainbow trout	Good	Fishing is best around the months when fish are stocked; stockings are in January, April, May and October. Due to clear water, most fishing is done at night. However, when a new stocking has just occurred the daytime fishing can also be good. A few trout will oversummer in most years providing fish up to 16 inches.

<b>FISHTRAP LAKE and TAILWATER</b>	1,131 acres	(Pike County)
Zebra mussels are present at Fishtrap Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Bluegill	Excellent	Some large bluegill available up to 11-12 inches; May and June have been popular months for angling.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution and numbers found throughout the lake and into Levisa Fork.
Crappie	Good	Anglers produced some real nice catches in 2012. Good springtime fishing is expected. Larger fish are often caught further out from shoreline. This fishery consists only of white crappie.
Flathead catfish	Excellent	Largest fish sampled in lower lake; also good numbers found in upper lake and into Levisa Fork. Numerous rocky ledges and banks around the lake provide excellent noodling opportunities when fish are spawning.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of hybrids in the lower lake in late summer and at winter pool; fair spawning run in headwaters in April; night fishing has become popular; look for fish in the jumps from May-July; good distribution of fish through 10 pounds. This is an underutilized fishery.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers with excellent size distribution and good growth; ratio of keeper size bass is one of the best in eastern Kentucky. Fingerlings were stocked in 2010 and 2012 to supplement those year classes in the lake.
Redear sunfish	Fair	This fishery was initiated with stockings from 2010-2012. Continued stocking is planned for 2013. There were some 9 and 10 inch fish in angler catches during 2012.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Make up approximately 15% of black bass; good fishing primarily in the headwaters of the lake up into the Levisa Fork River and in the lower portion of the lake from Grapevine to dam; large individuals up to 22 inches. Approximately 30,000 stocked in 2010. Excellent numbers in the Levisa Fork upstream of the lake.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>GRAYSON LAKE</b>	1,512 acres	(Carter and Elliott counties)
Bluegill	Good	Numerous, up to 7-inches long, widespread throughout the lake as well as other kinds of panfish. Try fishing 5-6 feet deep in May and June.
Catfish	Good	Widespread throughout the lake. Good numbers of channel and flathead catfish up to 20-inches long, some trophy sized flathead catfish are also available. Try fishing the middle and upper sections in early fall.
Crappie	Fair	Population samples collected in 2012 were far better than previous years. For this fish it is important to find cover or fish deep near channel edges around standing timber.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Hybrid striped bass were originally stocked from 1998-2003 and this program resumed in 2009. Fish from the original stocking can still be found and range in length from 24 - 27 inches. Good numbers of fish from the most recent stocking program in the ≥15 inch range have been sampled.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of fish over 15 inches, but most still less than the minimum size limit. Most prevalent of all black bass species in the lake. Better population exists in the upper reaches than the lower reaches. High water helps to congregate these fish within the weeds and shoreline vegetation. <b>Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.</b>
Spotted bass	Fair	Stable population. Most fish are found in lower 2/3 of lake.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Rarely found while sampling. The best bet is the lower portion of the lake. <b>Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.</b>
<b>GREEN RIVER</b>	(dam at Rochester down to mouth at Spottsville)	
Catfish	Good	Good populations of channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Trophy size blue and flathead catfish available. Good bets are tailwaters below locks and dams, in deeper holes, and around logs, brush, or rocks.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Fish tributary mouths, below locks and dams, and brush along bank in spring and fall with live minnows.
Striped and hybrid striped bass	Good	Stripers and hybrids congregate below dams late spring through early fall. Cast top water plugs or lead head jigs with plastic bodies into boils below dams. Shad imitation swim baits and bucktail jigs also produce well.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fish mouth of tributary streams in spring and below dams mid-spring through fall. Top water baits or lead head jigs below dams and lead head jigs or live bait at mouth of tributary streams during spring. Fish bank access area and boat ramp at mouth of Pond River late March through April.



Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>GREEN RIVER</b> (dam at Rochester up to Green River Lake Dam)		
Muskellunge	Good	Fishing best at feeder creek mouths and around woody debris or other current breaks. Fishing below instream dams also good bet. Stocked annually throughout river above Rochester.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers overall with larger fish (15-inch plus) available. Fishing best below dam to 31E in Hart County.
Walleye	Fair	Fishing best below Green River Lake dam area and instream dams during late winter and early spring.
<b>GREEN RIVER LAKE</b> 8,210 acres (Taylor and Adair counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through mid-October) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 20-25 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large population with occasional 7-8 inch fish. Fish stump beds and back ends of coves during spring and deep-water brush, standing timber and structure during summer for larger fish.
Channel catfish	Good/Excellent	All sizes available. Hook and line fishing best at night or when water levels are on the rise and muddy. Jug fishing good mid-summer to fall.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers overall. Good numbers of quality sized fish (15-inch plus) with excellent prospects for future from successful spawns in 2010 and 2011.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Legal sized fish (36-inch) abundant. Good numbers of 40-inch plus fish. Fall, late winter and spring are excellent times to catch trophy fish. Population maintained by annual stocking.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density overall; however, we can expect a slight upturn in numbers from good spawn in 2010 which should provide better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish to start the year. The lake still provides a good opportunity for trophy-sized fish. Most abundant in mid to lower sections of Robinson Creek and Green River arms.
Spotted bass	Good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish. 15-inch plus spots not uncommon.
Walleye	Fair	Overall numbers are fair as are numbers of larger fish (20-inch plus). Fish dam area, headwater areas of Robinson Creek and Green River arms in late February through mid to late March. Target standing timber coves, main lake stump beds, humps, and channel drop offs during summer and fall. Population maintained by annual stocking.
White bass	Poor	Overall numbers are low. Department is in process of stocking the lake to re-establish population.
White crappie	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of harvestable size fish (9-inch plus). Expect to weed through lots of sub-legal fish to find keeper fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>GREENBO LAKE</b>	181 acres	(Greenup County - Greenbo State Park)
Bluegill	Fair	Gradually improving population; larger fish (up to 10 inches long) are caught early to late spring around deep-water structure. Try fishing near beaver lodges. <b>Note: bluegill and other sunfish -15 fish daily creel limit.</b>
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 2-3 pound fish observed during fall sampling. <b>Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.</b>
Largemouth bass	Good	Good bass population but very difficult lake to fish; good numbers of fish over 15-inches especially for a lake with a 12-inch minimum size limit; potential for trophy size bass continues. Due to water clarity, anglers may have to fish deeper when fishing this lake. Based on 2012 spring sampling data, anglers will not see much change in their catch. During 2012 several fish in the 9 and 10 pound range were caught.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Annually stocked population with some carry-over; best fishing year round is in the open lake area and near the dam; during the spring and summer try fishing at night under lights. Winter fishing can also be good.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numbers low, however a few 8-13 inch fish continue to be caught. After the spawn try fishing in deeper water near the bottom. <b>Note: see bluegill regulation.</b>
<b>GUIST CREEK LAKE</b>	317 acres	(Shelby County)
Bluegill	Fair	Abundant, most less than 6 inches. Easy to catch; good place to take a child fishing with live bait.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Catchable size stocked each year; very good numbers of fish with potential for trophies. <b>Note: this lake is home to current bullhead catfish and white catfish state records.</b>
Common carp	Good	Bottom-fish with grain-based bait; 3 to 4 lb. fish common.
Crappie	Fair	Most in the 7-10 inch range.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Good numbers of fish in the 16 to 22 inch range; potential for trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; excellent potential for a trophy fish.
<b>HERRINGTON LAKE</b>	2,500 acres	(Mercer, Boyle and Garrard counties)
Bluegill	Good	Stable number of fish up to 8 inches in and around cover in embayments and inlets of rock walls; best April-June.
Common carp	Fair	Fish in coves or headwaters with grain-based baits on bottom.
Crappie	Good	Difficult to locate, but many quality-size fish (9 inches or larger) available. Best around brush in upper half of lake. Potential for large black crappie around debris in inlets in main lake.
Flathead catfish	Good	All sizes present; usually feed at night on sunfish and shad.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Two to five pound fish are common; possible trophy-sized fish.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers of fish over 12 inches, many over 15 inches. Largest fish around shoreline cover in March and April; potential for trophy-sized fish. Best success in the upper half of lake. Good night fishing during the summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>HERRINGTON LAKE (continued)</b>		
Longnose gar	Good	Large fish common; look for them around schools of shad. Schooling common in fall; potential trophy size.
White bass	Good	Should see good numbers during the spring run up the Dix River. Good numbers of fish in the 12-14 inch range. Winter and spring rains should improve the spring spawning run. Trophy-size present.
<b>KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER</b> 51,000 acres (Marshall, Calloway, Lyon, Livingston and Trigg counties)		
Blue catfish	Excellent	<p>In the lake, the best fishing is along the main river channel where the deeper drops are located. Fish congregate along the ledges of the channel when there is current, and scatter along the adjacent flats during periods of low flow. Drift using live shiners or cut shad/skipjack in areas where creek channels meet the main river channel. Other baits to try include chicken hearts, night crawlers, grass hoppers or catalpa worms.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there is year-round fishing. The ideal times are in April and May, and October and November. Best to use fresh bait (shad and skipjack herring) caught in the tailwaters. Most of the bank fishing has opened back up following bridge construction, with the addition of two new fishing piers.</p>
Bluegill	Excellent	Expect some of the best bluegill fishing in a while. There are high numbers of 6-8 inch fish. The best fishing is in May, but bluegill can be caught year-round. Crickets and worms under corks during the spawn are great baits. Later in summer try the stake beds or deep (6-10 foot) brush piles. Catch bluegill in a feeding frenzy during the summer months where mayflies are hatching along the shoreline. Also try deeper rocky points during the summer with pieces of night crawlers.
Channel catfish	Excellent	<p>In the lake, the best fishing occurs during the late spring along chunky rock shoreline on the lake, and rip-rap shoreline around the dam and marinas. Good fishing can be found along river channels during summer and on flats along the secondary channels. Jug fishing in the embayments is often a good way to catch a mess of channel catfish.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there is year-round fishing. However, blue catfish outnumber the channel catfish in the tailwater area. Most of the bank fishing has opened back up following bridge construction, with the addition of two new fishing piers.</p>
Crappie	Good	After a few good spawns, anglers should notice a lot of crappie around 9-11 inches long. Anglers fishing deep are catching fair numbers of keeper size white crappie. Anglers fishing shallow are catching fair numbers of black crappie. Black crappie prefer clear water and gravelly shoreline. Casting the shoreline with a curly tail jig works good. Crappie are vulnerable during late winter or early spring as they move toward shallow water areas for spawning. Fish are shallow in early to mid April around buttonball bushes, brush piles and stake beds. Crappie move to secondary channels, drops and flats near creek channels during the fall and winter.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	<p>Several good year classes have resulted in some good fishing. There are a lot of bass in the 15 to 18 inch range. There remains a lot of bass still under the 15-inch length limit. During the spring, fish move to wood structure along the shoreline. During the summer big fish are found along the main lake drops and secondary channels. Fishing the weed beds is good with top water baits on cloudy, rainy days during the summer. Smaller fish can be found in the backs of embayments around brush and chasing shad and minnows. During the fall, fishing around boat docks and rocky shorelines is good.</p> <p>There is some fine bass fishing in the tailwaters below KY Dam. Try fishing white spinner baits along the rip rap shoreline.</p>

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)</b>		
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Moderate numbers of 8 - 12 inch redear. Best fishing is in late April and early May. Redear like areas with gravel substrate and if there are yellow mustard flowers inundated by water in the backs of embayments during this time, this is a good place to find redear as well. Submerged pondweed clumps also hold redear sunfish. These fish primarily feed on the bottom for bugs, snails and small mussels; hence you need to fish near or on the bottom. Redear generally spawn a little deeper than bluegill.
Sauger	Fair	<p>A moderate population of harvestable-size (<math>\geq 14</math> inch) fish exists in the lake. Best fishing is in fall and winter along secondary channels. Try trolling crankbaits.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there is a higher abundance of harvestable-size sauger. This is a good winter fishery. Most of the bank fishing has opened back up following bridge construction, with the addition of two new fishing piers.</p>
Smallmouth bass	Good	The best fishing occurs along rocky shorelines and bluffs, creek channels at mouths of embayments, the canal main lake points, and main lake stumps. Night fishing during the summer months along gravel bars at the mouths of Land Between the Lakes embayments and rocky shorelines is good with dark color spinner baits or crayfish color creature baits.
Spotted bass	Fair	Low to moderate numbers of spotted bass in the range of 12-15 inches. Spotted bass are not normally targeted, but caught while fishing for largemouth or smallmouth bass. Spotted bass migrate to the streams at the backs of embayments during the early spring. Gravelly bars and points are a prime area to fish during the summer. Secondary points are good during the fall.
Striped bass	Fair	<p>Striped bass and their hybrids are being caught from the lake while fishing for white bass. Trolling with 6-inch deep diver baits which imitate minnows is effective.</p> <p>Better fishing is below Kentucky Dam in the tailwater. Fish congregate below the dam during periods of discharge through the generator section of the dam. Live herring is the preferred bait. Most of the bank fishing has opened back up following bridge construction, with the addition of two new fishing piers. From the shoreline fish with 4-inch sassy shad type baits.</p>
White bass	Fair	<p>Fish the main lake in the summer when white bass are found along secondary creek channels near the main river channel. Look for main channel points and bends; also near the canal.</p> <p>Good numbers are also found in the Kentucky Dam tailwater area along with their cousin the yellow bass. Most of the bank fishing has opened back up following bridge construction, with the addition of two new fishing piers.</p>
Yellow bass	Good	Lots of fish but they don't get real big. Their taste is better then most anglers perceive. Casting the rocky shoreline with a curly tail jig or rooster tail works great. See a lot casting the rocky shoreline in the spring while crappie fishing.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>KENTUCKY RIVER</b>	255 miles (main stem)	
Bluegill*	Fair	Shoreline areas around woody debris out of the current hold some quality fish but in low numbers.
Channel catfish	Fair	Look for silt-free rocky habitat or below dams or palisades.
Common carp	Fair	Bottom fish with grain-based baits below dams.
Crappie*	Good	Currently very good number of crappie in the Kentucky River; locate in backwater/creek-mouth areas with low current. Fish up to 12 inches or larger possible.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Large fish present around large boulders and log jams.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of 15 to 20-inch fish below dams. Numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Largemouth bass*	Fair/Good	Locate in cover just below dams, in creek mouths, bank slides, or around timber. Numbers have been reduced due to flood events in recent years.
Muskellunge	Good	Best in spring around creek mouths, and in summer around timber and creek mouths. Stocked annually in upper river. More fish in upper half of river (pools 6-14).
Sauger	Good	Found around sand bars, creek mouths and below dams around rock and sand bars; numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Nice fish possible in mouths of quality tributaries. Also found around rock piles and walls.
Spotted bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of small to medium-sized fish; usually below dams but also around palisade rock wall areas.
Walleye	Fair	Present in low numbers due to past stockings and escapement from reservoirs in the headwaters; good size fish possible below dams.
White bass	Good	Many 10-12 inch fish below dams; numbers are increasing due to a stocking program which began in 2006.

\*These are considered "standing water species" and do best in the river after prolonged periods of low-flow conditions. High water or flooding conditions for extended periods will reduce their numbers in the Kentucky River.

<b>KINCAID LAKE</b>	183 acres (Pendleton County)	
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable size stocked each year; good potential for fish over 15 inches.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant; most between 7-9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; good numbers of fish over 15 inches, excellent potential for a trophy fish. <b>Note: 12-inch size limit.</b>

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>LAKE CARNICO</b>	114 acres	(Nicholas County)
Bluegill	Poor	Numbers are low, however a few fish greater than 6 inches can be found.
Channel catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of flathead and channel catfish can be found. Lake is stocked with channel catfish.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair population of bass; good numbers of fish greater than 15 inches and a few 20 inch bass are present. Fifteen hundred 4.5-inch largemouth bass were stocked in the fall of 2011 and 900 during 2012 to help offset the effects of poor spawns in those years. Aquatic vegetation is present at the lake so bass anglers may want to concentrate their efforts near weed beds.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Numbers are low, however a few fish greater than 5 inches can be found.
<b>LAKE LINVILLE</b>	274 acres	(Rockcastle County)
Bluegill	Excellent	Abundant 6-8 inch fish available. Try crickets, red worms, or small jigs for good spring and summer fishing. Good access for bank anglers.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6-9 inch fish, with a few exceeding 10 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked during odd-numbered years. Good numbers of 12-18 inch fish with some fish over 20 inches available. Good bank fishing available.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Began annual stockings in 2007. Anglers can expect mostly 10-13 inch hybrids with a fair number of larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good mix of abundant smaller fish (10-13 inches) and moderate numbers of fish larger than 18 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Much less abundant than largemouth and spotted bass.
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous, but most are only 10-12 inches.
White bass	Fair	Fair numbers of 11-14 inch whites.
<b>LAKE MALONE</b>	767 acres	(Muhlenburg, Todd, and Logan counties)
Bluegill	Fair	Population mostly comprised of 4-6 inch fish. Some larger fish available. Fish shallow water in/around lily pads and backs of coves in spring/summer with popeye jigs and live bait.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Large number, but mostly slow-growing smaller fish less than 14-inches. Stocking rate is being reduced to increase growth rate.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Moderate number of 9-10 inch fish. Fish brush piles and fallen trees along some of the steeper banks.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Stable population with large number of 15-20 inch fish. Many trophy fish available. Fish the shoreline waterwillow during spring and fall and at night during summer with plastic baits. Also try submerged trees and brush along deeper banks in spring and summer with spinner baits and jigs.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number of redear, but good size (9-11 inch) fish available. Fish water willow edge along the shoreline in spring-early summer. Move to deeper submerged structure as water warms during summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>LAKE REBA</b> 76 acres (Madison County)		
Shoreline vegetation continues to be a problem within the lake, making bank fishing difficult. KDFWR personnel have implemented a program for chemical and biological removal of the vegetation. In 2007 and 2010 grass carp were stocked; remember removal of these fish is illegal.		
Bluegill	Fair	Far fewer fish in the 2012 samples than previous years. Most of the fish are less than 6 inches. However, there are still plenty of fish in the weeds around the lake, and there still is a good chance to catch a nice mess of panfish. Fewer fish could help the overall bluegill population by limiting competition for food and increasing growth of the fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Sampling shows high numbers of these stock-size fish and several over this size. <b>Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.</b>
Largemouth bass	Good	Similar numbers of fish as last year in the samples. Majority of the fish are under the 15-inch minimum size limit, but there are a few fish over 20 inches that have been caught for the last several years. Reports from anglers are that this is a better summer lake than a spring lake. <b>Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.</b>
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers within the lake, most less than 7 inches long; see bluegill.
<b>LAKE WILGREEN</b> 169 acres (Madison County)		
Blue catfish	Good	Stocked annually since 2009. Fishing should be improving in the next few years. Can be difficult to distinguish from channel catfish with the main difference being the anal fin (straight in the blues and rounded in the channels).
Bluegill	Good	Similar number to 2012 and most fish are less than 6 inches. The population is healthy up to that point. Should provide good fishing opportunities for 2013, but nothing like the Wilgreen of several decades ago.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	High numbers of fish over 15 inches with many over 20 inches. These fish are fat and healthy for their size. The bass population continues to grow. Should be another great year.
Redear sunfish	Good	Similar numbers to 2012 and most fish are less than 7 inches; see bluegill.
<b>LAUREL RIVER LAKE</b> 5,830 acres (Whitley and Laurel counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Fairly abundant 6-7 inch fish. Try crickets along rock walls in upper Laurel River Arm during summer months.
Crappie	Fair	Low density population exists in lake, but some large crappie are available to skilled anglers. Upper Laurel River near city dam is best area.
Largemouth bass	Good	Consistent numbers of 14-17 inch fish with a few over 20 inches. Upper Laurel River arm is best area.
Rainbow trout	Good	Stocked annually in January. Should be good numbers of 10-14 inch trout and a few larger fish. Try trolling small cranks or spoons during November – March for good catches of stocked fish.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Excellent winter fishery with good numbers of fish over 3 pounds and a few over 6 pounds. Smallmouth fishing at Laurel can be difficult at times but persistent anglers have a chance of catching a trophy fish. Try casting jigs or swim baits in winter and early spring for best success.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>LAUREL RIVER LAKE (continued)</b>		
Spotted bass	Good	Stable population of mostly 12-13 inch fish with a few exceeding 15 inches. Best in the mid and lower sections of the lake. Look for schooling fish chasing shad on the surface in early fall.
Walleye	Good	Good 2009 year class (3-5 pounders) should continue to provide the bulk of the fishery in 2013. Troll deep diving crank baits or spinner rigs across points and islands in summer and fall for best success.
White bass	Poor	A consistent fishery has failed to develop, although a few can still be caught each year. Best numbers in Laurel River arm.

<b>MARION COUNTY LAKE</b>	32 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 11 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6-8 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Higher than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish available.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High numbers of 11-13 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Good	Overall numbers down, but good numbers of 9-10 inch fish. Larger fish up shallow in early spring for spawn then move out to thermocline depth.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish available; fish laydown trees in the upper end of the lake in spring and brushpiles in late winter and summer.

<b>MARTINS FORK LAKE</b>	334 acres	(Harlan County)
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers. Most harvested fish are 7.25 inches or less. Fish shallow mud flats in spring or summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fingerlings were stocked in 2010 and 2012. Fish at night for better results as water is very clear. There are several good bank fishing areas. Martins Fork Creek entering the lake when murky can have good numbers of fish.
Crappie	Fair	White crappie are present. Harvested fish are typically 9 to 10 inches long. Occasional large fish up to 12-13 inches. Crappie are scattered in shallow water in spring, and congregate in tight groups in standing timber in summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth but low recruitment and low numbers. A good year class of fish spawned in 2010 should improve numbers in coming years and fingerlings were stocked in 2011. Numbers over 15 inches are above average at present for the lake. This lake contains 4 species of black bass that may be caught by anglers (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, and coosa bass). Largemouth bass numbers account for approximately 80% of the black bass in the lake.
Walleye	Poor	The last stocking of Erie strain walleye occurred in 2004. Very few fish remain. Remaining fish should range from 25-30 inches. Stocking of native strain walleye is scheduled to occur in 2013.



Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>MAUZY LAKE</b> 81 acres (Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA)		
Bluegill	Fair	Most fish 3-5 inches. Number of 6-8 inch fish in the population has decreased.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually; many 15-22 inch fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Number of 12-14 inch fish down somewhat, good number of 15-20 inch fish in the population with some larger fish available. Fish plastic baits and spinner baits around hardwood brush piles, especially in spring/early summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Redear sunfish population continues to increase annually. Most fish 6-8 inches but some 9-11 inch fish available.
<b>MCNEELY LAKE</b> 51 acres (Jefferson County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish through 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable size stocked each year; large fish possible.
Common carp	Fair	A few large fish present.
Crappie	Fair	Quality size fish possible; fish near weed beds and fallen trees, particularly in spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; best cover is water willow, fallen trees and stumps.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish through 9 inches; $\geq 10$ inch fish are present.
Warmouth	Fair	Large fish present around weed beds.
<b>METCALFE COUNTY LAKE</b> 22 acres (Metcalf County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	High numbers overall with fair numbers of 6-inch fish; however, few exceed 7 inches.
Blue catfish	Fair	Fair numbers overall, but some trophy sized fish (30-inch plus) available. Fish with live or cut bait near creek channel. Stocked annually since 2009.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Poor/Fair	Smaller sized (8-9 inch) and not overly abundant.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers of 15-inch plus fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) numbers above average.
Rainbow trout	Fair	600 fish stocked in March for a put and take fishery.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>MILL CREEK LAKE</b>	109 acres	(Monroe County)

Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 12 feet.

Blue catfish	Fair	Stocked annually since 2008 with 550 fish per year.
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Fair number of 8-9 inch fish. Larger crappie present but at low numbers.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus) overall; 18-inch plus fish numbers well above average.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish; 10-inch plus fish available.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low numbers; but trophy fish available.

<b>MILL CREEK LAKE</b>	41 acres	(Powell/Wolfe County – Natural Bridge State Park)
Bluegill	Good	Better numbers in 2012 than previous years. High numbers of fish over 6 and 8 inches. Water is extremely clear and can be difficult to fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. <b>Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.</b>
Largemouth bass	Good	Numbers in 2012 were similar to previous years. Several nice 20-inch plus fish were captured in 2012, but this lake can be difficult to fish. The timber areas in the upper reaches are the best bet. <b>Note: 15 inch minimum size limit.</b>
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Stocked annually. Best time to fish is within the first few days after stocking.

<b>NEW KINGFISHER LAKE</b>	21 acres	(Daviess County)
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Old and New Kingfisher lakes are in the process of being drained and renovated. The lakes will be allowed to dry throughout the summer of 2013 and the renovation will occur during the fall of 2013. To see when the lakes will be available for fishing check the KDFWR website at <http://fw.ky.gov>

<b>NOLIN RIVER LAKE</b>	5,795 acres	(Grayson, Edmonson and Hart counties)
Catfish	Good	<u>Channel catfish</u> - Good number of 13-18 inch fish and many larger. Fish upper lake (Sportsman's Paradise and Cane Run) and river area in early spring and rocky main lake banks mid-May through June. <u>Flathead catfish</u> - lower numbers than channels but several large fish (30+ lbs) harvested annually. Fish late May through June along the steeper rocky banks.
Crappie	Good	Crappie angling should be good at Nolin in 2013. Good number of 9-11 inch fish available for harvest. Large number of 7-inch fish from 2011 spawn. In summer months fish deep brush piles 18-22 feet deep in mid lake for larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Greater number of 15-20 inch largemouth in the population than in the last several years. Anglers should benefit from the greater number of harvestable bass in the population in 2013.
Walleye	Fair	Most fish 14-16 inches with a few up to 20-21 inches. Early spring fish Bacon Creek and above with lead head jigs and plastic grubs. In summer troll Sportsman's Paradise, Conoloway Creek, and the longer main lake points in the Red Rock and Rock Creek areas.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>NOLIN RIVER LAKE (continued)</b>		
White bass	Excellent	Good, stable white bass population with large number of 12-14 inch fish. Fish Bacon Creek and upper river during spring spawning run with lead head jigs and grubs. Fish longer main lake points or jumps in summer. Also in summer fish at night under lights near main channel with jigging spoons or live minnows.

#### **OHIO RIVER**

Blue catfish	Good	Good populations in tailwaters and deep holes around outside bends.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Look for silt-free, rocky habitat and embayments.
Common carp	Fair	Large fish possible. Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas. Increasing numbers of silver carp and bighead carp.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Backwater areas and creek mouths with brushy habitat are best producers.
Flathead catfish	Good	Potential for very large fish; look for cover such as sunken logs, boulders or other large objects.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Fish up to 6 pounds in and around tailwaters.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Sauger	Good	Spring and fall below dams with minnows or jigs on bottom.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low population in mid/upper river in sections of rocky habitat and tailwaters.
Spotted bass	Fair	Fish the main channel around cover.
Striped bass	Fair	Mid-summer to late fall good for 6-10 pound fish.
Walleye	Fair	Occasionally found in tailwaters.
White bass	Good	Good population.

#### **PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER** 1,139 acres (Morgan and Johnson counties)

Hydrilla is present at Paintsville Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment.		
Channel catfish	Fair	Large catfish present in low densities in upper lake. Down lake large fish are often located deep; fish that are shallow can be found around rock riprap shoreline areas.
Crappie	Good	Most successful fishing is done on the upper end of the lake into Open Fork and Little Paint Creeks; fish sampled up to 15 inches. Late March can often provide good catches of keeper fish in shallow water near Patoker boat ramp. Lower lake will have larger fish often holding at edges of hydrilla beds.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High survival of young fish due in part to presence of hydrilla which offers ample cover. Stable population with high numbers of fish <12 inches; fish sampled up to 24 inches; slow growth rates; number of fish over 15 inches is increasing. March is popular for catches of lunker fish.
Rainbow trout	Good	Good fishing present in shallow water during winter-early spring; fair fishing present in summer at depths of 20-25 feet. The catch and release portion of the tailwater can offer good quality rainbow and brown trout fishing.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)</b>		
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Poor spawns; fish sampled up to 22 inches; 18 inch minimum size limit implemented in 2005; changes made in water releases at dam in 2006 to improve summer cool water habitat; spawning benches being placed in lake to help improve spawning success. Supplemental stockings of native strain fish have occurred from 2009-2012.
Spotted bass	Poor	Numbers are down; some large spotted bass present up to 14 inches; best fishing in lower half of lake.
Walleye	Fair	Fair numbers through 27 inches; potential for trophy size; look for active fish to be suspended in March; also May and October are good months to fish with live night crawlers on a light jighead fished off the bottom. During the summer, target weedbed edges with minnows or nightcrawlers. The 2011 and 2012 stockings are doing very well.
White bass	Poor	Low numbers but good size fish. Fish will congregate in Little Paint and Open Fork arms in March.

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**PAN BOWL LAKE**    98 acres    (Breathitt County)

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Eurasian water milfoil is present in Panbowl Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers, and equipment. Grass carp were stocked in Panbowl Lake in 2010 to control the Eurasian water milfoil. All grass carp caught in Panbowl Lake must be released immediately.

Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to 7.5 inches throughout the lake. Fish early or late in the year when milfoil is not a problem.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fish were stocked in 2010 and 2012; lots of shoreline areas for bank fishing.
Crappie	Fair	Black and white crappie are present; fish sampled up to 12 inches; most are less than 9 inches; tend to congregate in tight groups in deeper areas of the lake.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Numerous fish up to 12 inches and good numbers of fish above 18 inches; lake contains a lot of aquatic vegetation providing cover for large fish. These fish see a lot of angling pressure often making success for large fish tough.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution up to 8.5 inches. May and June are good months to fish around weed beds and near docks.

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**PENNYRILE LAKE**    47 acres    (Christian County)

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Pennyrile Lake was drawn down for a large part of 2012 for repairs on the beach area of the state park. As a result, fish sampling was not conducted this year. In many instances, a water draw-down improves fish populations. We expect that to be the case for most game fish species in Pennyrile. More information will be available at the conclusion of our routine sampling in the spring of 2013.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>REBEL TRACE LAKE</b> 19 acres (Menifee county)		
Watershield has now replaced the Eurasian watermilfoil and is covering about 80% of this lake; therefore fishing may be difficult, especially in the summer and fall. This lake is also rapidly filling in. Due to federal ownership of this lake the use of aquatic herbicides is prohibited at this time.		
Bluegill	Good	Fair numbers of 6-inch bluegill are present with occasional 8-inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas and downed timber in spring. Also, as the lake fills in, numerous spawning beds can be found off shore in shallow areas where the aquatic vegetation is less dense.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Lake receives heavy pressure therefore fewer numbers of bass are caught. Though limited, fish up to 19-inches can be found. Fish woody structure and weed beds.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7-inch fish with some 9-inch fish present.
<b>ROUGH RIVER LAKE and Tailwater</b> 5,100 acres (Breckinridge and Grayson counties)		
Catfish	Good	Good number of channel catfish in the 20-25 inch range. Lower number of flathead catfish, but trophy fish available. Tailwater good in early summer and again during fall drawdown. Fish upper lake areas in early spring and moderately steep rocky banks during mid May-June for spawning fish.
Crappie	Good	Good number of 9-11 inch fish in the population with 12-14 inch fish available. Large number of 6-8 inch fish present due to very successful spawns in 2010 and 2011. Tailwater area is also a good early spring crappie fishery.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Excellent population of hybrid striped bass. Many 20 inch plus trophy fish available. Fish upper lake areas in spring. Troll main lake points in summer or fish jumps in main lake (Dam to Tules Creek on north fork and Dam to Little Clifty Creek on south fork). Fish main lake points and sand/mud flats in fall and winter. Tailwater area good spring fishery (April).
Largemouth bass	Good	The number of 15 inch and larger fish continues to increase as it has over the last several years. Bass anglers at Rough River Lake should continue to enjoy an increasing number of harvestable size bass.
<b>SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE</b> 135 acres (Warren and Edmonson counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 10 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Numbers of 6-inch plus fish up from last couple of years.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	All sizes available. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of 12-14 inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish. Larger fish up shallow early in the spring then out to thermocline depths by early summer.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish (10-14 inches) available. Fish stakebeds and shallow brushpiles in spring; deeper brush in late winter and summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>SMOKY VALLEY LAKE</b> 36 acres    (Carter County – Carter Caves State Park)		
Growth of largemouth bass in the lake has slowed significantly and the Department is currently adjusting regulations to help correct the problem.		
Bluegill	Fair	Slightly better than last season; most fish less than 7 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. <b>Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.</b>
Largemouth bass	Fair	There has been some improvement in the largemouth bass population in the lake, thanks to the current regulation. However, future regulation changes may be necessary. There are plenty of chances to catch a good number of fish, but the average size of fish is still not adequate for this lake. <b>Note: no minimum size limit 6 fish daily creel limit.</b>
<b>SPURLINGTON LAKE</b> 36 acres    (Taylor County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 6 inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes present. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Better than average numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus). Good opportunity for 20-inch plus fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) available. Occasional 10-inch fish available.
<b>TAYLORSVILLE LAKE</b> 3,050 acres    (Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties)		
Blue catfish	Good	Population stable; stocked annually since 2002. Fish with live bait or cut baits in open water areas. Fish over 30 inches possible.
Bluegill	Good	Good number of fish 6 inches and longer around standing timber in coves.
Channel catfish	Good	Many fish of all sizes. Look for bigger fish in the timber in spring, heads of creeks in fall and points next to channel any time.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good number of fish at and above the 9-inch size limit. Black crappie now dominate the population. Good spawns of white and black crappie were found in 2012. <b>Note: daily creel limit 15 fish.</b>
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Overall numbers lower, but fair numbers of fish greater than 15 inches. In spring and fall, there is good fishing in headwaters; look for jumps early and late in day July-September.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers of 12-15 inch fish; good number of 15-18 inch fish; best in timber coves; try embayments in spring and fall.
White bass	Fair	Good numbers in Salt River above the lake in spring (with good flow from rains) and fall. Many 10-13 inch fish present.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>THREE SPRINGS LAKE</b> 30 acres (Warren County)		
Lake is very shallow (no deeper than 6-7 ft)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-8 inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers and good size fish (15-inch plus) available. Stocked periodically through the spring and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous fish available; few fish larger than 12 inches.
Rainbow Trout	Good	Stocked periodically through winter and early spring months (November–March) for put and take fishing.
Redear	Fair	Fair number of larger fish (8-inch plus) available; better than average numbers of 10-inch plus fish.
<b>WASHBURN LAKE</b> 18 acres (Ohio County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Low number, but many fish in 7-inch range.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good number of fish in the population, many 15-20 inches.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Population dominated by slower growing sub-legal fish. Few fish greater than 12 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number, but several 9-11 inch fish in population.
<b>WEST FORK DRAKES RESERVOIR</b> 88 acres (Simpson County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 8 feet.		
Blue catfish	Fair	350 fish stocked annually since 2006.
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6-inch plus fish. Few 8-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Numerous sizes available. Fishing best at night near creek channel.
Largemouth bass	Fair/good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish due to good spawns in 2010 and 2011.
Muskie	Fair	Fishing best in the lower half of the lake near vegetation beds in winter to early spring. Fishing good below the dam year-round using large inline spinners and jerk baits.
Redear sunfish	Good	Better than average number of 6-inch plus fish.
<b>WOOD CREEK LAKE</b> 672 acres (Laurel County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Adequate numbers of 6-7 inch bluegill.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year. Consistently produces 12-18 inch fish and remains one of the better catfish fisheries in this area of the state.
Crappie	Fair	Good density of smaller fish with relatively few fish exceeding 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Numbers may be down slightly but the population still has good size range with some fish exceeding 20 inches.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in October and February.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
<b>WOOD CREEK LAKE (continued)</b>		
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate density of 8-inch and larger redear are available. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Very scarce in lake.
Spotted bass	Fair	Most are less than 12 inches. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
<b>YATESVILLE LAKE</b> 2,314 acres (Lawrence County)		
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution throughout the lake; numerous fish 7.0-7.5 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Quality size distribution and densities of catfish exist in all areas of the lake; during fall and early winter many fish are shallow in upper lake; popular lake for jugging and limb lines.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of 8-15 inch fish. Traditional brushy areas and deadfall trees are good for spring spawning fish, with points from shallow mudflats to deeper water being good in the fall. This fishery consists only of white crappie.
Flathead catfish	Fair	Good size distribution with fair numbers; rocky shoreline and brush will have better numbers. Recent years have had shown good survival of young fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution of fish with good numbers of 15-22 inch fish. Supplemental stockings of fingerling bass were done in 2009 and 2012 to help with below average spawns. Popular lake for tournament fishing as most of the year produces good results.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Population is building in numbers; annual stockings of fish from 2010-2013; larger fish in 2012 were up to 8 inches.



## Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Lakes

### Largemouth bass

In the spring, try a Rapala #11 or #13 gold with black back or floating or shallow diving stick baits. Also try black/brown or black/blue ½ ounce jigs with #11 or #1 pork frog in the yellow mustard flowers in the backs of embayments. Around woody structure use a spinner bait or plastic lizards in either pumpkin or june bug color.

During summer, fish ledges near river channels with Carolina-rigged and Texas-rigged soft plastics and deep-diving crank baits. Also fish stumps on the main lake in the mornings and evenings with topwater baits like the zara spook. Current is the key to these main lake stumps being productive. Using a 10 inch plastic worm fished along the ledges during the summer months is also good. A good color is plum.

During fall, fish along main lake ledges around stumps and brush with shad or blue/chartreuse-color crank baits. Use top water baits (zara spook or devil horse) in the flats of embayments. Use white spinner baits around main lake stumps.

The recent dry summers have really brought on the aquatic vegetation. The beds of weeds are extremely productive during the late spring, summer and early fall. Top water baits such as spooks, stick baits, plastic frogs, and buzz baits are great choices. Plastics, such as worms, and spinner baits are also good when fishing the edges of the weed beds.

### Crappie

In spring, fish shallow and over flats with jigs and minnows. Cork fish around buttonball bushes. During summer, white bass anglers trolling small crankbaits near the river channel and primary points in the lake catch many crappie. During fall, fish jigs and minnows next to deep ledges formed by the river channel. Fish may also be caught suspended on flats adjacent to the secondary channel around 10 feet deep near structure. Fall is also a good time to catch black crappie along gravelly shorelines fishing with a curly tail jig.

### Blue catfish

During the summer, fish along the main river channel with minnows, cut shad/skipjack herring, and stink baits.

### Channel catfish

In spring, fish with leeches or night crawlers around rip rap. During summer, fish with cut shad, chicken livers, minnows, leeches, and worms along the main river channel.

### Sauger

Troll mainlake bars during the late summer and early fall with wiggle-warts or crankbaits which bump the bottom. During fall and winter, use jigs and minnows along the old river channel, along primary points near the river channel, and where a secondary channel meets the old river channel. A good site for fishing is along the river channel just north of the Paris Landing Bridge (US Highway 79).

### White bass

Fish the jumps from July – September with slab spoons or white roostertails.

## **Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Tailwaters**

Blue and channel catfish	The best time is in May-June using cut bait or live bait just off the bottom.
Sauger	Fish $\frac{3}{4}$ oz or 1 oz jigs with minnows bumping bottom in back eddies and near current. Trolling is also good during the winter and early spring. Best fishing is between December and February.
Striped bass and hybrids	The best time is from April-June using live bait (skipjack herring) or 4 inch sassy shad baits with a 1-2 ounce head in pearl or chartreuse color. The amount of weight depends on the current and should allow baits to bump the bottom. Live bait can be caught in the tailwaters using a cast net or a skipjack rod.

# Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass	Bluegill	Redear sunfish	Crappie	Rainbow trout	Brown trout	Muskellunge
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Barren River		✓							✓
Barren River Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Beaver Lake	✓				✓				
Bert Combs Lake							✓		
Beshear Lake	✓								
Beulah Lake	✓			✓			✓		
Boltz Lake				✓					
Briggs Lake				✓	✓				
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater				✓					✓
Bullock Pen Lake	✓								
Cannon Creek Lake							✓		
Carpenter Lake	✓								
Carr Creek Lake			✓						
Cave Run Lake	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Cedar Creek Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Clear Creek Lake				✓	✓				
Corinth Lake	✓				✓				
Cumberland Lake	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Cumberland Tailwater									
Dale Hollow Lake	✓	✓	✓						
Dewey Lake				✓	✓	✓			
Elkhorn Creek	✓	✓							
Elmer Davis Lake	✓				✓				
Fagan Branch Lake				✓	✓				
Fishpond Lake	✓			✓			✓		
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Grayson Lake				✓					
Green River		✓							✓
Green River Lake	✓		✓			✓			✓
Greenbo Lake	✓						✓		
Guist Creek Lake	✓								
Herrington Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Kentucky Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Kentucky River						✓			✓
Kincaid Lake	✓								
Lake Linville	✓		✓	✓					
Lake Malone	✓								
Lake Reba	✓								
Lake Wilgreen	✓			✓	✓				
Laurel River Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Marion County Lake				✓	✓				
Martin's Fork Lake									
Mauzy Lake	✓								
McNeely Lake				✓	✓				
Metcalfe County Lake	✓								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)	✓								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)	✓			✓			✓		
Nolin River Lake	✓					✓			
Ohio River						✓			
Paintsville Lake/tailwater						✓	✓		
Panbowl Lake				✓	✓				
Rebel Trace Lake				✓	✓				
Rough River Lake	✓					✓			
Smoky Valley Lake									
Spurlington Lake	✓								
Taylorsville Lake	✓			✓					
Three Springs Lake							✓		
Washburn Lake									
West Fork Drakes Reservoir					✓				
Wood Creek Lake	✓								
Yatesville Lake	✓			✓		✓			

\*\* Additional species can be found on following page.

# Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Striped bass	Hybrid striped bass	White bass	Walleye	Sauger	Channel catfish	Blue catfish	Flathead catfish
Barkley Lake/tailwater						✓	✓	
Barren River								
Barren River Lake		✓				✓		
Beaver Lake						✓		
Bert Combs Lake								
Beshear Lake						✓		
Beulah Lake								
Boltz Lake								
Briggs Lake						✓		
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater						✓		✓
Bullock Pen Lake								
Cannon Creek Lake								
Carpenter Lake						✓		
Carr Creek Lake				✓				
Cave Run Lake			✓			✓		
Cedar Creek Lake								
Clear Creek Lake								
Corinth Lake						✓		
Cumberland Lake	✓					✓		
Cumberland Tailwater				✓	✓			
Dale Hollow Lake								
Dewey Lake						✓		✓
Elkhorn Creek						✓		
Elmer Davis Lake						✓		
Fagan Branch Lake						✓		
Fishpond Lake								
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater		✓				✓		✓
Grayson Lake						✓		✓
Green River	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Green River Lake						✓		
Greenbo Lake						✓		
Guist Creek Lake						✓		
Herrington Lake			✓					✓
Kentucky Lake/tailwater						✓	✓	
Kentucky River			✓		✓			
Kincaid Lake						✓		
Lake Linville						✓		
Lake Malone								
Lake Reba						✓		
Lake Wilgreen							✓	
Laurel River Lake				✓				
Marion County Lake						✓		
Martin's Fork Lake						✓		
Mauzy Lake						✓		
McNeely Lake								
Metcalfe County Lake								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)						✓		
Nolin River Lake			✓			✓		
Ohio River		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Paintsville Lake/tailwater								
Panbowl Lake						✓		
Rebel Trace Lake								
Rough River Lake		✓				✓		
Smoky Valley Lake						✓		
Spurlington Lake						✓		
Taylorsville Lake						✓	✓	
Three Springs Lake						✓		
Washburn Lake						✓		
West Fork Drakes Reservoir						✓		
Wood Creek Lake						✓		
Yatesville Lake						✓		